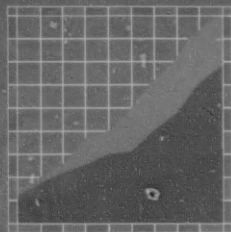


# Statistics Weekly

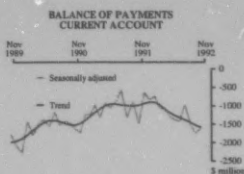
Thursday, 7 January 1993



## *The week in statistics ...*

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## Exports help lower November deficit

Seasonally adjusted, Australia's balance of payments current account deficit for November 1992 fell \$144 million (8%) to \$1,603 million.

The decrease in the deficit was mainly caused by a fall of \$268 million in the merchandise trade deficit. Merchandise exports rose 9 per cent and merchandise imports rose 3 per cent. A fall of 1 per cent in the net income deficit also contributed to the fall in the overall deficit. Partly offsetting these movements in merchandise trade and income were an increase of \$121 million (or 80%) in the net services deficit and a decrease of \$24 million (or 15%) in the net unrequited transfers surplus.

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS  
CURRENT ACCOUNT**  
\$ million

	October 1992		November 1992	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	- 519	- 309	- 251	- 41
Net services	- 253	- 152	- 180	- 273
Balance on goods and services	- 772	- 461	- 431	- 314
Net income	- 1,400	- 1,443	- 1,385	- 1,422
Net unrequited transfers	188	157	143	133
<b>Balance on current account</b>	<b>- 1,984</b>	<b>- 1,747</b>	<b>- 1,673</b>	<b>- 1,603</b>

Merchandise exports in original terms rose \$291 million, or 6 per cent, to \$5,119 million, mainly reflecting the \$146 million (or 4%) rise in non-rural exports.

The largest increases in this category were in:

- ☐ machinery, up \$118 million or 36 per cent;
- ☐ transport equipment, up \$85 million or 87 per cent;
- ☐ 'other' mineral fuels, up \$43 million or 12 per cent; and
- ☐ gold, up \$38 million or 10 per cent, due mainly to increased volumes of gold exports.

Partly offsetting these rises were decreases in metal ores and minerals, down \$124 million or 17 per cent; coal, down \$16 million or 3 per cent; and 'other' non-rural, down \$6 million or 6 per cent.

Rural exports rose \$145 million (or 11%) to \$1,506 million, with the largest rises recorded in:

- ☐ 'other' rural exports, up \$81 million or 20 per cent;
- ☐ cereals, up \$67 million or 38 per cent;
- ☐ wool, up \$46 million or 15 per cent.

Merchandise imports in original terms rose \$23 million to \$5,370 million. The largest increase was in machinery, up \$297 million or 19 per cent, due mainly to the importation of accommodation and production 'modules' for the Goodwyn A offshore production platform (valued collectively at \$240 million) and the OPTUS B1 satellite. Fuels imports were up \$66 million or 26 per cent.

The largest falls occurred in civil aircraft, down \$136 million (74%); 'other' manufactures, down \$80 million (7%); and road vehicles, down \$45 million (8%).

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0), or contact Marie Flint on (06) 252 6689 or Kym Borgmeyer on (06) 252 5540.

## Complete Australian housing resource data

A comprehensive compendium of Australian housing statistics has been released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It traces the issues and policies that have shaped housing development since colonial settlement, as well as providing a full statistical resource for discussion of contemporary housing issues.

*Housing Australia* will be welcomed by the building industry, social research and welfare agencies and market research firms as well as being of value to Federal, State and local government authorities associated with the economic or social implications of housing. It will also provide resource material for the education sector.

Information in the 110-page compendium includes:

- ☐ government policies and regulations on housing and urban development, public transport and health and welfare issues;
- ☐ population growth and distribution, size and composition of households;
- ☐ housing — approvals, commencements, under construction, completed, materials used and cost; and
- ☐ house prices, affordability and financial issues.

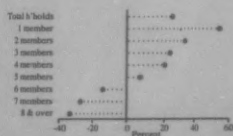
The historical analysis in the publication shows how the 'Great Australian Dream' of home ownership has dominated housing-related policy since colonial days. It also gives a useful perspective on many issues of current debate.

For example, the report notes that the age structure of Australia's population has and will influence the housing pattern of all Australians. The proportion of the population aged over 60 has increased from 6 per cent in 1901 to 15 per cent by 1986. Also by 1986, 40 per cent of all people who lived alone were at least 65 years old, while the percentage of those aged under 20 decreased from 45 per cent (in 1901) to 32 per cent.

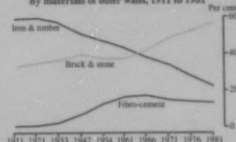
While the Census counts of both persons and dwellings have increased between each Census, the average number of persons per dwelling has consistently decreased. In 1947, there was an average of 3.9 persons per dwelling, and by 1986 this had fallen to 2.7 persons.

*Continued ...*

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD SIZES, 1976 TO 1986



OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS  
By materials of outer walls, 1911 to 1981



On urbanisation, the book reveals that as early as 1851, 40 per cent of the population lived in cities. By 1891, 50 per cent of Australia's population lived in urban areas (towns of 2,500 or more inhabitants). This rose to 86 per cent by 1986. In 1986, 63 per cent of New South Wales' population lived in Sydney, while Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth each contained over 70 per cent of their State's population. By contrast, only 48 per cent of Queensland's population lived in Brisbane and only 40 per cent of Tasmania's population lived in Hobart.

The physical and financial aspects of housing are also addressed in *Housing Australia*. Some of the interesting findings include:

- ☐ Over three quarters of Australian dwellings are separate houses. However, other residential dwellings such as flats and townhouses have formed an increasing proportion of total dwelling stock since the 1950s when separate houses accounted for around 85 per cent of all dwellings.
- ☐ There has been a shift from timber to brick as the most popular outer wall material. In 1911, 55 per cent of dwellings had outer walls of timber. By 1981, 57 per cent of dwellings had outer walls of brick.
- ☐ Despite the large increases in housing prices in 1988-89 and 1989-90, the number of first home buyers remained quite high. From the 1988 Housing Survey, the average number of first home buyers per year was 117,000. Data from the 1990 Income and Housing Survey put the total figure at 290,200 for the three years 1988 to 1990.

FIRST HOME BUYERS, NUMBER OF DWELLINGS PURCHASED, 1988-90  
('000)

	Household income				Total
	Less than \$27,500	\$27,500 to \$42,499	\$42,500 to \$54,999	\$55,000 or more	
Purchase price					
Less than \$62,500	30.9	26.1	14.6	5.8	77.3
\$62,500 to \$84,999	13.2	27.3	18.7	8.2	67.4
\$85,000 to \$119,999	16.3	15.5	18.3	26.3	76.4
\$120,000 or more	13.3	9.8	14.1	31.7	69.0
Size of deposit					
Less than \$5,000	20.7	15.4	9.1	6.6	51.8
\$5,000 to \$17,499	13.2	26.8	22.4	19.4	81.8
\$17,500 to \$39,999	13.4	20.3	14.4	20.7	68.8
\$40,000 or more	26.4	16.2	19.9	25.3	87.8
Total	73.7	78.7	65.8	71.9	290.2

*Housing Australia* is the first compendium of housing statistics prepared by the ABS. It was produced by the ABS Housing Statistics Unit with advice from the Urban Research Unit, Australian National University and the University of Sydney. It is available from ABS bookshops in all capital cities, priced at \$25 per copy.

## Manufacturing production in November

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-one with up-to-date trend estimates). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten Manufacturing Production Bulletins.

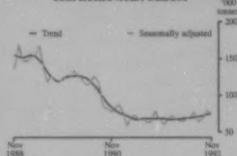
In the table below, twelve items are showing current trend production levels above the levels of twelve months previous. Nine of the twelve are also showing increasing trend production over recent months although none of the series have shown consistent growth over the whole twelve month period. While production levels of bloom and slabs, gas and portland cement are above those of November 1991, current production trends are declining.

Generally the second column (comparisons of the trend estimate with the corresponding month of the previous year) provides the more reliable guide to longer term trends, but should be read in conjunction with the recent monthly movement to give an indication of the current trend direction, and with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications, as production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis.

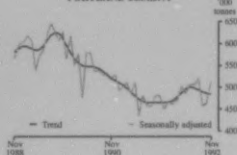
### MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, NOVEMBER 1992

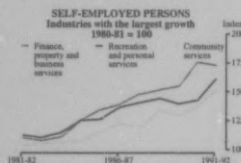
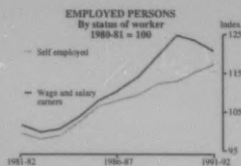
Product	Percentage change in trend	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sulphuric acid; oleum	1.3	9.8
Chocolate based confectionery	0.0	7.8
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-0.7	6.7
Gas available for issue through mains	-0.7	4.7
Portland cement	-0.3	4.0
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	1.2	3.4
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	3.3	3.1
Electric motors	0.6	3.0
Textile floor coverings	1.1	2.6
Electricity	0.3	1.6
Clay bricks	0.0	1.0
Cotton yarn	2.9	0.9
Cars and station wagons	-3.0	-0.2
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	-1.0	-1.4
Other confectionery	-2.3	-2.6
Beer	-0.8	-4.4
Woven man-made fibre fabric	1.0	-5.6
Domestic clothes washing machines	-0.8	-7.0
Wool yarn	0.0	-8.9
Television sets	-3.0	-10.6
Cigarettes and tobacco	-3.3	-14.5

SULPHURIC ACID; OLEUM



PORTLAND CEMENT





## Growth in self-employed workers

Recent labour force survey results show that the number of self-employed persons has continued to grow in contrast to the general fall in the number of employed wage and salary earners.

In August 1992, there were 1,206,500 persons who were self-employed and a further 6,397,600 persons who reported that they were wage and salary earners. The number of wage and salary earners has declined from its peak of 6,747,400 in May 1990, whereas the number of self-employed persons is at the highest level recorded.

Self-employed persons are defined as employers with employees, and self-employed persons without employees, provided that there is no incorporated company involved.

Data about these forms of employment are collected each quarter by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the results published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) under the item *Status of Worker*.

Between August 1980 and August 1992, the number of self-employed persons rose by 19 per cent, with the strongest growth occurring since 1984-85. On a financial year annual average basis, the only falls in the number of self-employed persons occurred in the 1981-82 and 1982-83 financial years. However, these falls have been followed by continuing growth. For wage and salary earners the strong growth during the latter half of the 1980s has been followed by a decline during the most recent economic downturn.

As the table shows, the wholesale and retail trade and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries have maintained the largest shares of the self-employed over the 12-year period under review. However, industry divisions with the most prominent growth have been Finance, property and business services; Recreation, personal and other services; and Community services.

SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY  
('000)

	August 1980	August 1986	August 1992
Wholesale and retail trade	273.9	255.9	276.5
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	267.1	269.7	240.0
Construction	164.1	178.3	219.3
Finance, property and business services	71.3	101.9	134.8
Recreation, personal and other services	75.8	103.7	126.8
Transport and storage	60.0	72.8	75.0
Manufacturing	54.2	62.0	70.5
Community services	43.3	46.7	60.9
Other industries	5.3	4.8	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,015.0</b>	<b>1,095.8</b>	<b>1,206.5</b>

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order  
(including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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### ABS State Offices

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### Editor

(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly  
7 January 1993

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 19 January

- 8** Building Approvals, Australia, November 1992 (8731.0; \$13.30)
- 11** Retail Trade, Australia, November 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- 14** The Labour Force, Australia, December 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)  
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, November 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)
- 19** Export Price Index, Australia, November 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, November 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, November 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)

### Selected releases 23 December to 5 January

#### General

- Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, December 1992 (1305.1; \$14.00)
- Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, December 1992 (1303.6; \$9.50)

#### Census of Population and Housing

- 1991 Census — Community Profiles, Tas., 1991 (2722.6; free) — *new issue*

#### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports and Imports by Country, September Qtr 1992 (5422.0; \$19.00)
- Cash Management Trusts, Aust., November 1992 (5635.0; \$6.00)
- State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, June Qtr 1992 (5646.0; \$10.50)

#### Agriculture

- Livestock Products, Aust., November 1992 (7215.0; \$7.50)
- Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, WA, 1990-91 (7120.5; free)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Manufacturing Industry: Summary of Operations, Aust., 1989-90 (8202.0; \$15.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, October 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, August 1992 (8741.1; \$10.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, August 1992 (8741.3; \$10.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, Tas., September Qtr 1992 (8635.6; \$20.00)
- Building Approvals, NT, November 1992 (8731.7; \$7.00)

#### Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., November 1992 (9303.6; \$5.50)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	n.a.	65,307	0.5	2.1
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	Nov. 92	\$m	-1,673	-1,603	8.2	-8.3
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-251	-41	86.7	4.7
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-431	-314	31.9	-22.2
Merchandise exports	"	"	5,119	5,107	9.1	13.7
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5,370	-5,148	3.2	13.5
Net foreign debt	30 Sept. 92	\$m	162,841	n.a.	8.6	18.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	209,173	n.a.	5.2	12.4
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7
New capital expenditure at 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,468	4,557	1.2	-9.0
New motor vehicle registrations	Nov. 92	no.	44,553	45,707	4.1	8.6
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	24,649	24,034	-0.1	-0.2
Dwelling unit approvals	Oct. 92	no.	14,392	13,950	5.5	16.2
Building approvals	"	\$m	2,126	1,995	8.7	8.2
Building work done at 1984-85 prices	June qtr 92	"	3,754	3,765	-0.3	-6.8
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	Sept. qtr 92	1989-90 = 100.0	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Oct. 92	1988-89 = 100.0	114.1	n.a.	0.1	2.6
Materials used in manufacturing industries	"	1984-85 = 100.0	127.8	n.a.	0.7	7.7
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	Nov. 92	'000	7,656.6	7,636.1	-1.0	-0.2
Participation rate †	"	%	62.1	62.6	-0.6	-0.4
Unemployment rate †	"	%	10.5	11.4	0.1	0.9
Job vacancies	Aug. 92	'000	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	June 92	million	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Oct. 92	'000	229	222	2.1	6.4
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	4,153	4,077	25.6	37.0
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	Aug. 92	\$	585.80	n.a.	-0.3	3.2
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)	Nov. 92	% per annum	5.85	n.a.	0.0	-2.40
90-day bank bills †	"	"	9.15	n.a.	0.30	-0.65
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	6.902	n.a.	-3.6	-12.2
Exchange rate — \$US	Nov. 92	per SA	0.6902	n.a.	-3.6	-12.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year

## Key State indicators

	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	June qtr 92	-21.5	-10.5	-5.7	-30.8	-3.4	-13.4	n.a.	n.a.	-14.8
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Oct. 92	2.4	2.9	7.4	-1.9	9.4	6.1	n.a.	5.6	4.0
New motor vehicle registrations†	Nov. 92	4.1	9.0	22.1	1.6	5.1	-4.7	38.6	5.0	8.58
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Oct. 92	15.2	8.0	7.5	13.1	50.5	6.3	-13.1	-22.2	16.2
Value of total building work done	June qtr 92	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons*	Nov. 92	-2.1	-0.5	2.5	0.7	0.8	-0.2	-0.5	4.5	-0.2
Capital city consumer price index	Sept. qtr 92	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Aug. 92	2.6	3.8	2.5	5.8	2.2	2.6	5.0	5.1	3.2
Population	June 92	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	June qtr 92	6.9	-4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

